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EXAMINER

KOENIG, ANDREW Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/527,137

Applicant(s)

PIETRASZAK ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Y. Koenig

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19,23-32,35-51,54-56,58-69,72,74-79 and 81-85 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 84 and 85 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19,23-32,35-51,54-56,58-69,72,74-79 and 81-83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19, 23-32, 35-51, 54-56, 58-69, 72, 74-79, and 81-83 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The examiner is withdrawing subject matter previously indicated as allowable, the examiner apologizes for any inconvenience to the applicant.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 84 and 85 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Prior art of record fails to show or reasonably suggestion a conflict in EPG data received from at least two of the different sources, wherein the conflict resolution criteria includes giving each EPG loader equal priorities, and wherein resolving the conflict includes giving precedence to EPG data that is received most recently. Klosterman of record teaches receiving EPG data from plural sources, however the conflict resolution is based upon the source, not on the data most recently received.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 8, 11, 12, and 51 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

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Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Independent claim 1 recites claims 8, 11, and 12 in the alternative, consequently, there exist a scenario where claims 8, 11, and 12 do not further limit its independent claim.

Dependent claim 51 recites limitations already present in independent claim 43 and does not further limit claim 43.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 4-11, 15-17, 19, 23-32, and 35-42, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,157,411 to Williams et al. (Williams) in view of U.S. Patent 5,550,576 to Klosterman, U.S. Patent 5,557,724 to Sampat et al. (Sampat), and U.S. Patent 6,536,041 to Knudson et al. (Knudson).

Regarding claims 1 and 42, Williams teaches gathering data from plural inputs (such as from a DSS receiver, vertical blanking interval (VBI), and other remote sources (col. 5, ll. 22-51) and storing the data in database. Further, Williams teaches a data parser 204, which collects the data from the various sources and the data engine 206 for storing the data in the database (col. 5-6, ll. 62-9). Williams teaches different

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loaders each receives data from a different source, wherein the data is collected at a writer module. Williams teaches plural inputs (such as from a DSS receiver, vertical blanking interval (VBI), and other remote sources (col. 5, ll. 22-51) and storing the data in database. Further, Williams teaches a data parser 204, which collects the data from the various sources and the data engine 206 for storing the data in the database (col. 5-6, ll. 62-9). Whereas Williams discloses a data parser (204), Williams does not explicitly disclose a plurality of EPG loaders, per se, wherein each EPG loader receives data from a different EPG source. The data parser of Williams clearly has a plurality of loaders within the data parser (204) in order to receive the data signals from the various sources in that each the sources have mutually exclusive interfaces (e.g. receiving data from the vertical blanking interval (VBI) requires different methods from DSS and modem transfers). Accordingly, Williams teaches a plurality of loaders (within the data parser 204), wherein each receives data from a different sources. Further, Williams teaches a data engine 206 for storing the data in the database (col. 5-6, ll. 62-9). Williams is silent on explicitly using the data for an electronic program guide (EPG). Klosterman teaches merging channel guide information from different sources for presentation (col. 2, ll. 23-31, col. 2-3, ll. 64-9) and arranged in a guide (which reads on an EPG)(col. 6, ll. 34-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by gathering data from plural sources and displaying in an EPG as taught by Klosterman in order to provide a convenient user interface to the user thereby providing access to various channels independent of source. Williams is silent on calling and executing functions. Sampat

teaches loading functions from modules and enabling execution of the functions (col. 33, ll. 6-23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by loading and executing functions as taught by Sampat in order to provide a uniform interface for a program to access resources thereby promoting a more robust and platform independent system.

Regarding claim 4, Williams teaches adding a newly generated field to the database (col. 6-7, ll. 53-4), which equates to creating a new categorization system for storing the EPG data.

Regarding claim 5, Williams teaches adding a newly generated field to the database (col. 6-7, ll. 53-4), which equates to adding a category to the database.

Regarding claim 6, Williams teaches associated data with their sources, which equates to mapping a category pair to a specific program col. 5, ll. 22-51, col. 8, ll. 44-49).

Regarding claims 7, 24, 32, the combination of Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat has been discussed in claim 1. Further, the combination teaches a placing content into an EPG, clearly at least for updating and the initial startup of the device, new EPG channel information is inherently added to the database in order to access and process the information from the database itself.

Further regarding claims 1, 8, and 11, Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat are silent on removing all EPG data and all schedule data from the database. Knudson teaches removing expired data from the database (fig. 21, col. 17, ll. 46-63), wherein over the course of time all information will be removed. Therefore, it would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat as taught by Knudson in order to remove all the expired data thereby reducing unnecessary information.

Regarding claims 9,10, 15, 31, Williams is silent on removing channel and program data. Official Notice is taken that removing channel and program data is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by removing channel and program data in order to eliminate out-of-date and undesirable channel information from the database.

Regarding claims 16, 17, 19, Williams is silent on removing a property from a program object and a schedule entry. Official Notice is taken that replacing data in an EPG is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by replacing data, which equates to removing (and adding) data to program objects of a schedule entry in order to maintain a current and accurate guide, thereby presenting useful information to the user.

Regarding claim 23, the combination of Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat has been discussed in claim 1. Williams is silent on removing duplicates (col. 6, ll. 39-50), which equates to setting a preferred result for a condition. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by removing duplicates as taught by Klosterman in order to provide an efficient comprehensive guide to the user.

Regarding claims 25-28, Williams is silent on adding extensible name-value properties to different fields. Official Notice is taken that use of an extensible name-value is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by using extensible name-values in order to further describe a field, code, and provide additional information to the user.

Regarding claim 29, Williams is silent on a purchase string to a schedule entry. Official Notice is taken that purchasing programs is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by purchasing programs such as pay-per-views (PPV) and video-on-demand (VOD) programs in order to provide additional services to the user and provide a means to select the programs.

Regarding claim 30, Williams teaches traits including ratings (col. 7, ll. 21-29).

Regarding claims 35-36, Williams is silent on indicating completion of the database or EPG services storage. Official Notice is taken that providing software indications (such as status information) is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the invention was made to modify Williams by providing indications in order to ensure that the data being accessed is valid.

Regarding claims 37, Williams teaches activating the appropriate devices when requested by the user, clearly there exists a relationship between the entry in the database and the source (col. 8, ll. 1-59).

Regarding claims 38 and 41, Williams teaches network addresses such as uniform resource locators (col. 7, ll. 21-29).

Regarding claim 39 and 40, Williams is silent on mapping a weblink to a channel or a program. Official Notice is taken that mapping a weblink to a channel or program is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by mapping a weblink to a channel and a program in order to provide the user with additional information thereby increasing interactivity.

7. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,157,411 to Williams et al. (Williams), U.S. Patent 5,550,576 to Klosterman, and U.S. Patent 5,557,724 to Sampat et al. (Sampat) in view of U.S. Patent 5,850,218 to LaJoie et al. (LaJoie).

Regarding claim 2, Williams teaches traits including title, channel, station call letters, actors/actresses/artists, duration, start time, end time, genre, critique, rating, location of software files, parameters for executing applications, network addresses such as uniform resource locators, etc (col. 7, ll. 21-29), but is silent on a new audio subchannel format. LaJoie teaches SAP (fig. 8, label 180, col. 19, ll. 29-38), which is an alternative audio subchannel format displayed on an EPG. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by adding an audio subchannel format thereby displaying the

alternative audio subchannel as an option to the user as taught by LaJoie in order to further enable the user to select a desired channel for listening.

Regarding claim 3, Williams is silent on adding a new audio subchannel format to a schedule entry. LaJoie teaches SAP (fig. 8, label 180, col. 19, ll. 29-38) associated to a program thereby related to a schedule entry, which was clearly added in order to display its status. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by adding a new audio subchannel to a schedule entry as taught by LaJoie in order to display and present the information to the user, thereby enabling the user to select the desired audio subchannel.

8. Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,157,411 to Williams et al. (Williams), U.S. Patent 5,550,576 to Klosterman, U.S. Patent 5,557,724 to Sampat et al. (Sampat), in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0035915 to Yamashita et al. (Yamashita)

Further regarding claims 1 and 12, Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat are silent on removing a specific audio channel from the database. Yamashita teaches that the storage device stores its program and necessary data, clearly, if the system is not capable of displaying or providing a separate audio channel, then the data is no longer necessary. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams, Klosterman, Sampat, and Knudson by storing only the necessary data, thus removing a specific audio channel by not

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placing it in the database as taught by Yamashita in order to conserve storage space thereby enabling more necessary information to be stored.

9. Claims 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,157,411 to Williams et al. (Williams) in view of U.S. Patent 5,550,576 to Klosterman, U.S. Patent 5,557,724 to Sampat et al. (Sampat), U.S. Patent 6,536,041 to Knudson et al. (Knudson), and U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0000194 to Sequeira.

Regarding claim 13, the combination of Williams, Sampat, Klosterman, and Knudson are silent on removing a specific categorization from the database. Sequeira teaches removing a specific field from a database (pg. 5, para. 0053, table 1), which equates to a specific categorization. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the EPG database by removing specific fields from records as taught by Sequeira in order to provide routines to manage and maintain the data in the data thereby increasing data integrity.

Regarding claim 18, the combination of Williams, Sampat, Klosterman, and Knudson are silent on removing a property from a weblink object. Sequeira teaches removing properties of objects (pg. 5, para. 0053, table 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the EPG database by removing properties of objects as taught by Sequeira in order to remote a weblink object thereby providing routines to manage and maintain the data in the data thereby increasing data integrity.

10. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,157,411 to Williams et al. (Williams), U.S. Patent 5,550,576 to Klosterman, U.S. Patent 5,557,724 to Sampat et al. (Sampat), U.S. Patent 6,536,041 to Knudson et al. (Knudson), and U.S. Patent 6,216,134 to Heckerman et al. (Heckerman).

Regarding claim 14, the combination of Williams, Sampat, Klosterman, and Knudson are silent on removing a specific category pair from the database. Heckerman teaches removing all category pair from a database (fig. 11, col. 15-16, ll. 60-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the EPG database by removing specific category pair as taught by Heckerman in order to efficiently remove data from the database.

11. Claims 43-51, 54-56, 58-69, 72, 74, 78, 79, and 81-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,157,411 to Williams et al. (Williams) in view of U.S. Patent 5,550,576 to Klosterman, U.S. Patent 5,557,724 to Sampat et al. (Sampat), "An Expanded View of Messages" by Donald Firesmith (hereafter Firesmith).

Regarding claims 43 and 78, Williams teaches gathering data from plural inputs (such as from a DSS receiver, vertical blanking interval (VBI), and other remote sources (col. 5, ll. 22-51) and storing the data in database. Further, Williams teaches a data parser 204, which collects the data from the various sources and the data engine 206 for storing the data in the database (col. 5-6, ll. 62-9). Williams teaches different

loaders each receives data from a different source, wherein the data is collected at a writer module. Williams teaches plural inputs (such as from a DSS receiver, vertical blanking interval (VBI), and other remote sources (col. 5, ll. 22-51) and storing the data in database. Further, Williams teaches a data parser 204, which collects the data from the various sources and the data engine 206 for storing the data in the database (col. 5-6, ll. 62-9). Whereas Williams discloses a data parser (204), Williams does not explicitly disclose a plurality of EPG loaders, per se, wherein each EPG loader receives data from a different EPG source. The data parser of Williams clearly has a plurality of loaders within the data parser (204) in order to receive the data signals from the various sources in that each the sources have mutually exclusive interfaces (e.g. receiving data from the vertical blanking interval (VBI) requires different methods from DSS and modem transfers). Accordingly, Williams teaches a plurality of loaders (within the data parser 204), wherein each receives data from a different sources. Further, Williams teaches a data engine 206 for storing the data in the database (col. 5-6, ll. 62-9). Williams is silent on explicitly using the data for an electronic program guide (EPG). Klosterman teaches merging channel guide information from different sources for presentation (col. 2, ll. 23-31, col. 2-3, ll. 64-9) and arranged in a guide (which reads on an EPG)(col. 6, ll. 34-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by gathering data from plural sources and displaying in an EPG as taught by Klosterman in order to provide a convenient user interface to the user thereby providing access to various channels independent of source. Williams is silent on calling and executing functions. Sampat

teaches loading functions from modules and enabling execution of the functions (col. 33, ll. 6-23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by loading and executing functions as taught by Sampat in order to provide a uniform interface for a program to access resources thereby promoting a more robust and platform independent system. Williams is silent on calling and executing functions. Sampat teaches client applications calling functions through the media service manager (MSM) application programming interface (API) for retrieving and gathering data for the client application (col. 15, ll. 4-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by calling and executing functions from the API to retrieve and access data as taught by Sampat in order to provide a uniform interface for a program to access resources thereby promoting a more robust and platform independent system.

Further regarding claim 43, 51, and 78, Williams, Sampat, and Klosterman are silent on disabling signaling of update events. Firesmith teaches that in order to ensure that attributes are not corrupted due to interleaved access because of time slicing, the concurrent object must ensure mutual exclusion via critical regions (pg. 3, ll. 1-5), wherein Firesmith teaches a DISABLE message (pg. 3, ll. 22-34). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams, Sampat, and Klosterman by disabling events as taught by Firesmith in order to increase data integrity by ensuring that attributes are not corrupted due to interleaved access (Firesmith: pg. 3, ll. 1-11).

Regarding claim 44, Williams teaches various methods for displaying information, such as alphabetically, by rating, genre, etc, which reads on a collection of names of known schemes for organizing.

Regarding claim 45, Williams teaches returning an end time to a program (col. 7, ll. 21-29).

Regarding claim 46, Williams is silent on returning the furthest time in the future when a program starts. Official Notice is taken that returning the furthest time in the future when a program starts is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by returning the furthest time in the future when a program starts in order to enable the user to select a desirable time to view the programming.

Regarding claims 47-48, Williams teaches returning information on programs (col. 7, ll. 21-29), which confirms the channel and indicates that the channel data exists.

Regarding claim 49, Williams teaches organizing on ratings (col. 7, ll. 21-29, col. 8, ll. 15-24), which clearly has a collection of strings for names of the rating.

Regarding claim 50, Williams teaches altering the presentation order of programs, which is a function that retrieves a channel collections (col. 8, ll. 15-27).

Regarding claims 54 and 55, Williams teaches searching using the query interface (col. 6, ll. 15-27, col. 7, ll. 21-29).

Regarding claim 56, Williams teaches associating the source and channel with the item in the database (col. 8, ll. 40-59).

Regarding claim 58, Williams teaches searching (col. 6, ll. 15-27), which reads on a function returns information indicating whether data is found for a range.

Regarding claim 59, Klosterman teaches displaying an EPG, which has been discussed in claim 1, which equates to retrieving a program object representing a program shown on a specified channel at a specified time.

Regarding claims 60-64, 68, 69, Williams teaches an end time, duration, rating, start time, and title (col. 7, ll. 21-29)

Regarding claims 65-66, the system of Williams inherently adds data into the database in order to access the information at a later time, clearly the presence of new information would necessitate the information to be added to the database, which equates to a function indicating an event should be fired when a new channel has been added.

Regarding claim 67, the combination of Williams and Klosterman has been addressed in the discussion of claim 1. Klosterman teaches displaying a guide for a given time period (fig. 2), which equates to a function returns updates occurring within a particular time range.

Regarding claim 72, Williams is silent on searching for a case-insensitive string. Official Notice is taken that searching a case-insensitive string is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by using a case-insensitive string in order to provide a more useful user interface thereby making the searches more efficient.

Regarding claim 74, Williams teaches searching for programs, but is silent on retrieving a collection of sub-category names for a given category. Official Notice is taken that retrieving a collection of sub-category names for a given category is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams by retrieving a collection of sub-category names for a given category in order to facilitate searching thereby simplifying the searches for the user.

Regarding claim 79, the combination of Williams and Klosterman has been addressed in the discussion of claim 1. Klosterman teaches deleting one of the channels or both of the channels from two different sources, thereby giving precedence to EPG data received from the sources (col. 6, ll. 34-56).

Regarding claim 81, the combination of Williams and Klosterman has been addressed in the discussion of claim 1. Klosterman teaches deleting one of the channels or both of the channels from two different sources, thereby allowing the user to select a conflict resolution scheme (col. 6, ll. 34-56).

Regarding claim 82, the combination of Williams and Klosterman has been addressed in the discussion of claim 1. Klosterman teaches deleting one of the channels or both of the channels from two different sources, thereby enabling the user to assign a priority to the EPG loader (col. 6, ll. 34-56).

Regarding claim 83, the combination of Williams and Klosterman has been addressed in the discussion of claim 1. Klosterman teaches the user deleting one of the

channels or both of the channels from two different sources (col. 6, ll. 34-56), which is performed in software which reads on an application.

12. Claims 75-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,157,411 to Williams et al. (Williams), U.S. Patent 5,550,576 to Klosterman, U.S. Patent 5,557,724 to Sampat et al. (Sampat), "An Expanded View of Messages" by Donald Firesmith (hereafter Firesmith) in view of U.S. Patent 5,818,935 to Maa.

Regarding claim 75, the combination of Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat teaches a and EPG database and calling and executing functions, but is silent on a function indicating that a new category has been added to the database. Maa teaches an isupdate function that indicates data having been changed (col. 8, ll. 29-41), further adding new categories is taught by Williams (col. 67, ll. 53-4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat by using an isupdate function that indicates data having been changed as taught by Maa in order to indicate a new category thereby efficiently manage and service data thereby ensuring that the data is the most recent

Regarding claim 76, the combination of Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat teaches a and EPG database and calling and executing functions, but is silent on a function indicating that a new channel has been added to the database. Maa teaches an isupdate function that indicates data having been changed (col. 8, ll. 29-41), further in the EPG environment new channel information is clearly received (such as shown in

Klosterman). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat by using an isupdate function that indicates data having been changed as taught by Maa in order to indicate a new channel has been added thereby efficiently manage data and ensuring that the data is the most recent.

Regarding claim 77, the combination of Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat teaches a and EPG database and calling and executing functions, but is silent on a function indicating data having been changed to the database. Maa teaches an isupdate function that indicates data having been changed (col. 8, ll. 29-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams, Klosterman, and Sampat by using an isupdate function that indicates data having been changed as taught by Maa in order to efficiently manage and service data thereby ensuring that the data is the most recent.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Y. Koenig whose telephone number is (703) 306-0399. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (7:30 - 6:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on (703) 305-4755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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CHRIS GRANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER